

Our Mail-Bag

Sunday Dinner Music.

SPEAKING as a comparatively new listener, I think that with only one exception our stations in New Zealand put forth splendid programmes. The exception I refer to is the silent time on Sundays between 4.30 and 6 p.m. On Sundays I maintain that dinner or "tea" music is more valuable than during the week. I put forth the following suggestion for criticism:—Children's session, 5 till 5.45 p.m.; musical session, 5.45 till 6.45.—"Listener" (Wanganui).

Screen Grid Two.

WOULD you kindly inform L.H. (Christchurch) that the Screen Grid Detector Two is in May 1, 1929, issue of "Popular Radio and Aviation" and if he is unable to obtain a copy I have a copy which he can have if he writes and tells me where to send it.—G. Patchett (264 Rintoul Street, Wellington).

Distortion from Dunedin.

I WOULD like to report that reception from 4YA since the installation of the new transmitting plant has not remedied the distortion that formerly existed. It is still as bad as ever. Reception from Dunedin has always been splendid here until about 5 p.m. After that the station is not worth tuning in. For instance, should a speaker be giving an address, some words of it will come through splendidly, and then distortion will momentarily occur, rendering the speech unintelligible. I have a seven-valve all-electric factory-built set, and as other stations come through quite clearly I am sure my set is not at fault.

I have inquired from other owners of local wireless sets here, and they give the same report. I was speaking to an owner of a similar set to mine recently, and he remarked that he experienced exactly the same distortion. He tuned in 4YA while I was there, and the reception was most irritating. The Wellington station came through beautifully, however.—J. A. Moyle (Otago).

Mains Interference.

WITH reference to Mr. Martin's complaint about interference with radio reception by the main power lines to the south. This seems to be a bar to all worth-while radio reception in a strip several hundred yards wide along the line which runs through the greater part of Canterbury. From what I can gather, the lines carry 60,000 volts, and it does not seem possible to do anything to mitigate the trouble. Indeed, it is likely to become very much worse, as I believe it is intended to raise the load on the mains to 110,000 volts. A Victim, (Temuka).

Unsatisfactory Reception.

COULD nothing be done with regard to the reception from 4YA, as it is not what it is reputed to be. The reception is quite all right in the afternoon from 3 p.m. to about 6 p.m., but after that it is very mushy and distorted. I can receive the Australian stations far better than Dunedin, even though I am only about 100 miles from the latter station. The other YA stations are excellent, especially 2YA. It is a treat to listen to, and we would like to hear the Orchestra more often if it is possible. 4YA Dunedin is no

Morse Interference

Steps Should be Taken

NOW that broadcasting has reached its present level and has found its way into over 45,000 New Zealand homes, definite steps should be taken to prevent Morse interference. This is not always easy to locate, and no doubt the Post and Telegraph Department are doing their utmost to cope with the menace. Only recently we have received complaints about strong Morse interference. One Wellington listener writes:—"Two drawbacks to radio reception which I am sure influence the license total are the howling valve nuisance and amateur Morse transmitters. Nothing, I daresay, can influence the latter cause of disturbance, which is rapidly getting worse. When one waits for some time to receive the faint call of a distant station and a blast of Morse prevents its reception, it is annoying to say the least. Surely the howling valve at least can be eliminated. If every one who bought parts to construct a set had to sign for them then they could have the set tested if howling was noticed in the district. It is unbearable to have an excellent programme such as is now presented by all the YA stations spoilt by these fresh complications. The preceding nuisances are the cause of most of the dislike towards radio evinced to-day by many of the public.—B. G. Findlay (Wellington)."

On making inquiries we have found that Morse is particularly troublesome. It has interfered with our own reception, and on odd occasions we have checked up these transmissions, but most are, unfortunately, in a code that has not been deciphered. It has been suggested that it is ship transmission, but there is nothing to back up this argument. For the same reason, there is nothing to contradict it. We would suggest that in view of the widespread disturbance caused by this station, that the Department take special steps to locate this offender and prevent the transmissions during broadcast hours. Other Morse transmission has caused interference, but nothing can compare with the slow dashes and dots occasioned by this unwelcome interlude.

The howling valve nuisance is taking alarming proportions. It is almost impossible to listen even to Christchurch on a Wednesday night. We were listening in recently and one oscillator remained on 8YA with a continuous strong whistle for over an hour. This is more than sheer selfishness; it is an offence against the regulations, and the Department has power to make the culprit feel uneasy. By the means of loop antennae it is possible to track down a constant howler, and we suggest that the Department take steps in this direction. If a few offenders were to have their licenses cancelled and lose their receivers howling valves would be less annoying than they are at present.

better than it was before the new installation, and surely listeners in the far south are entitled to some consideration.—Interested Listener (Nightcaps).

THE D.X. CLUB

Views and News.

Identification Wanted

ON Friday, December 6, on about 242 metres (1240 k.c.), I heard two ships, one on morse and the other on speech. As I do not understand morse all I could get was some of the speech, which was as follows:—"Hullo, who are you? We are about 300 to 350 miles from you — sixty foot log in the middle of the ship —. Thanks for getting me through. I will tell him when he comes down —." The name Doris was mentioned. He then closed down like this:—"I won't come back again. Good-night." Then the call letters, either 3JNL or CJNL. Could any listener enlighten me as to their identity?—M.B.S. (Palmerston North).

Stations Identified

IN a recent issue I notice there is some discussion as to the identification of a station broadcasting on Armistice Day service on the evening of Sunday, November 10. I think the station the "Grid" is looking for would be 2ZF Palmerston, which is operating on 285 metres (1050 k.c.). I picked up this station on the night in question at about 8.30 and found they were broadcasting the records of the 1928 memorial service in the Royal Albert Hall, London. No doubt this was the station that "Grid" and "Grebe" have heard.—Ernest H. Carman (Feilding).

DX Topics

ON looking over the D.X. Club notes for November we noticed that someone was inquiring as to the identity of a station 2ZU Marton, which he heard on November 6 at approximately 10.30 p.m. We understand that there is no broadcasting station at Marton

and should imagine that the station heard was our own broadcasting station, 2ZQ Masterton, as we were transmitting at that time. Over the summer months we are transmitting one night only per week, viz., Wednesday, the hours being eight to ten p.m. The power is approximately seven watts only. Although we are using this low power only we have had exceptionally good reports from all over New Zealand, from Bluff to Kaitia.—N. R. Cunningham, Ltd. (Masterton).

I WISH to draw D.X. listeners' attention to the fact that the Southern Californian stations have changed their frequencies as from November 15, 1929. I expect some listeners have already heard some on their new frequencies. Station KGO is now increasing its power to 50,000 watts. Reception of American stations has fallen off lately. I noticed KGO transmitting on WLW's frequency on December 5 at 8.45 p.m. Has any other listener noticed this?—S. Ellis (Okato).

I NOTICE Mr. Sellens in last week's short-wave notes queries the identity of the London and New York 'phone stations. On December 11, and December 12, 1929, I heard these stations testing until about 8 p.m. New Zealand time, when the three were coming in at R9. While listening to the New York station on 49 metres, I heard the calls GBS and GBU mentioned, and I think the 30-metre station is GBS, and the 48-metre GBU. I did not hear the call of the New York station on 49 metres. I wonder if any other listener could oblige me with the call? J. V. McMinn (Wellington) reports hearing 3UZ, Melbourne, on 65 metres. I first logged this station on November 23, 1929, on about 69 metres, just above PMY, Java. At the conclusion of a test between VPP, Suva, and 2MB, Sydney, on December 3, I heard Suva sign off as VP1A. It appears that different calls are used for the different transmitters which they are testing.—A. D. Rogers (Wellington).

A New Use for Radio

MANY mysteries of bird migration which have puzzled scientists for years may at last be solved with the aid of radio. A beginning with this new method of investigation was made recently by an ornithologist in charge of a bird-banding station in East Prussia, Germany. After attaching numbered bands to the legs of a number

of storks, the investigator broadcast a request to European bird lovers for information regarding the birds. Soon reports started to come in from members of the radio audience. These showed that, five days after their release, the storks had been seen in the Carpathian mountains in Czechoslovakia. A couple of weeks later they were observed near Messina, in southwestern Greece, having flown about 1250 miles in that period.

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